

Results of the statistical analysis of all the dialects together suggests that the relative positions of formants of certain vowels are particularly static on the formant chart across gender however a great degree of variation occurred, which is predominantly found with the F1 of the front oral vowels and the F2¹ of the nasalized vowels.

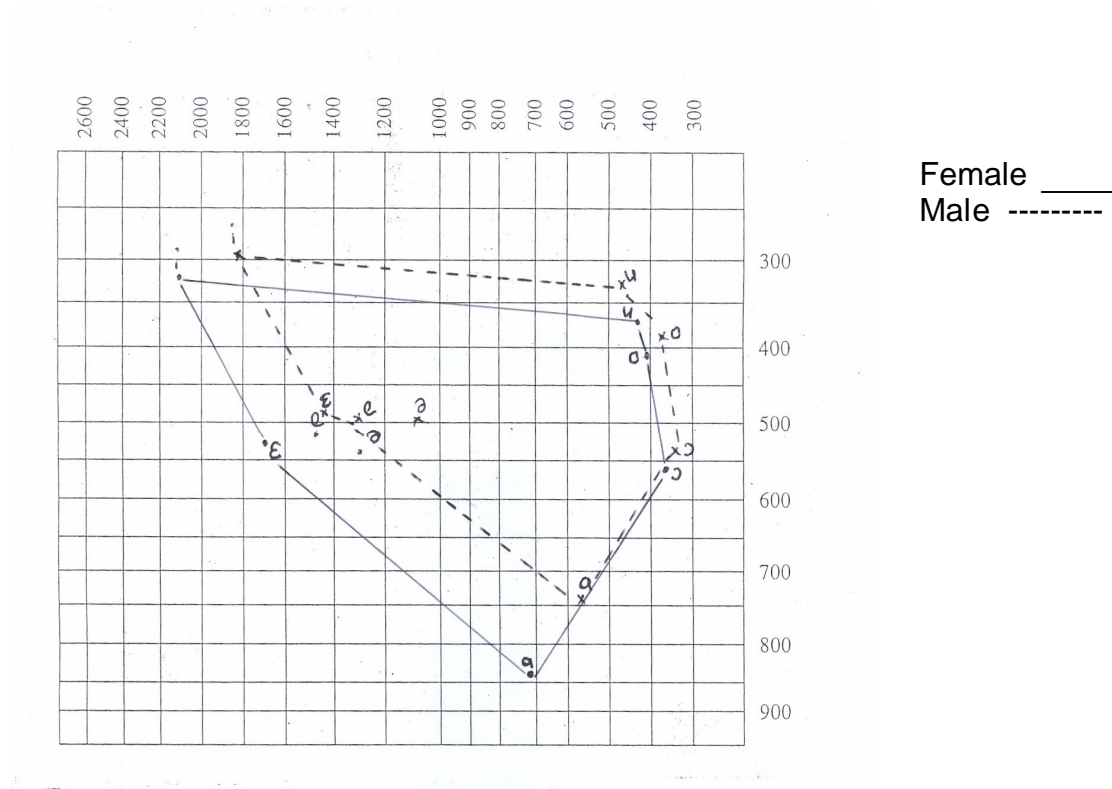


Fig
of oral vowels by Male and Female speakers of Ewe.

For the oral vowels (Fig. 4.10.11), Ewe female speakers were generally found to produce a less high and more fronted [i] than male speakers. They also produced a more fronted [e], [ɛ] and [ə] than male speakers. [a] is very low and less back for females while the males have it more shifted to the back as compared to the females.

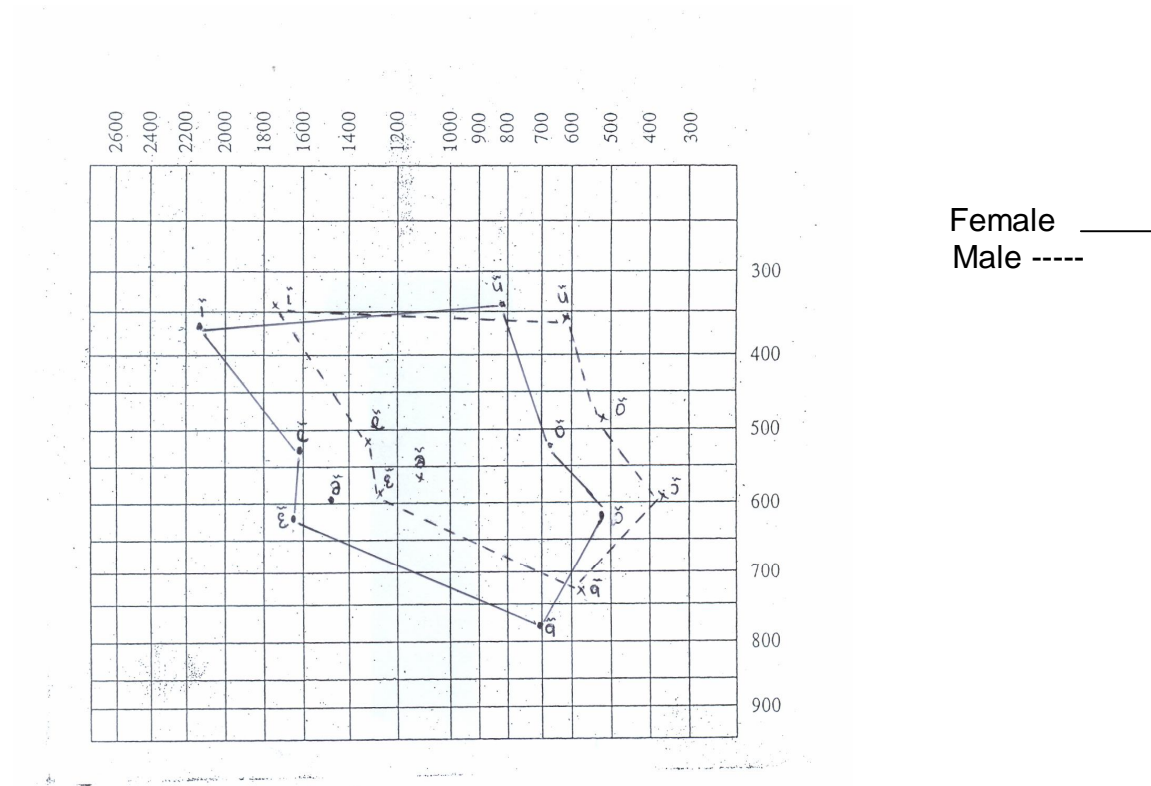


Figure 4.10.12. F1/F2¹ formant plots for the mean formant values of Nasalized vowels by Male and Female speakers of Ewe.

Gender predominantly affected the F2¹ of the nasalized vowels making the front ones more front and the back ones less back for the female speakers as compared to the male speakers (see fig. 4.10.12).

Generally the female speakers of Ewe have higher formant frequencies as compared to the male speakers giving them more fronted and open vowel qualities than their male counterparts.